REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 18, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-14 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-14 were rejected. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 have been amended to correct some minor informalities. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Specification Objections

Examiner has objected to the Abstract for informalities, which Applicants have amended to overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-14 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants amend Claims 1, 6, 8, and 10 to overcome these rejections and respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-14 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,199,008 issued to Michael Aratow et al. ("Aratow"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art as anticipated by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected Claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present Claims.

The Examiner stated that Aratow discloses all the limitations of the independent claims. Applicants respectfully disagree. According to the independent claims a plurality of control units for controlling one or more vehicle components, respectively, are provided. Aratow does not disclose any control unit that is capable of controlling a vehicle component. The specification cites several examples of control units that control a vehicle component. For example, such a control unit can be an electronic transmission control unit, an automated gearbox control unit, , a powertrain control unit, an anti-skid control unit, etc. See specification page 5, lines 6-20. Thus, the term "control unit" is sufficiently defined in the present specification. Aratow merely shows if at all a single control unit 12. Units 16-20 are memory units. Units 29, 30, 32, 33, 34 are either input or output units. However, Aratow is silent with regarding a control function of a vehicle component by CPU 12. According to the independent claims each control unit requests data from the navigation system of a future route being traveled to provide for a route dependent control of the respective component. Aratow on the contrary, requests data from a plurality of sources such as a terrain database, an aviation database, a weather database, etc. and combines these data to provide for a complex analysis. However, Aratow does not control any vehicle component based on the data and is, therefore, completely unrelated to the present application.

Aratow clearly does not anticipate the independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent Claims are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claim to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicants reserve the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103, if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

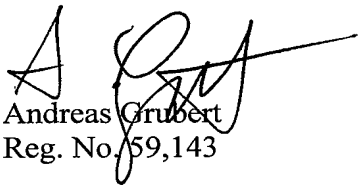
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



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Date: October 12, 2006

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